

Yesterday I voted to provide more than \$20 billion for green school construction, modernization and repair. Helping educational institutions to reach energy sustainability will not only provide better environments for our children, but it will also help schools achieve fiscal sustainability. H.R. 3021, the 21st Century High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, passed the House by a vote of 250 to 164.

While I support providing funds to schools via a need-based formula, I believe we must do more to inspire teachers and students to take an active role in the greening of their schools and of our nation. That is why I attempted to offer an amendment to H.R. 3021 with Rep. Christopher Carney (D-PA) to provide a secondary financing mechanism for green school improvements through a public-private partnership program. The amendment would have required the Department of Education to provide \$10,000 matching grants to educational institutions and would have required the involvement of students, teachers and community leaders to plan the projects and generate a non-federal match.

Unfortunately, my amendment was not allowed to be considered as part of this bill. Earlier in the year I introduced this program in the Green Schools Act, H.R. 6065, with Rep. Carney, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.